Staff Memorandum

To	Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council
Subject	Employment Development Community Improvement Plan Project Area Update
Date	March 4, 2026
Ward	All
From	S. Schlichter, Director of Economic Development
Executive Member Approval	S. Diemert, Acting General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the Employment Development Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Project Area.

Highlights:

- On December 3, 2025, Council approved Staff Report ECD010-25 directing staff to implement an Employment Development CIP to proactively stimulate investment and job creation.
- The intent of the Employment Development CIP was to include all lands within the City of Barrie municipal boundary.
- Staff have made amendments to the project area maps included in all CIP documents, including the by-laws, to reflect the City of Barrie municipal boundary as of January 1, 2026.

On December 3, 2025, Council approved an Employment Development CIP to proactively stimulate investment and job creation.

The incentive programs include an Employment Ready Review, a Tax Increment Equivalency Grant, Site Plan and Building Permit Fee exemptions and rebates, Study Grants, and Development Charge Deferrals. These programs are grounded in a robust eligibility and administrative framework, ensuring alignment with Council priorities and recent provincial legislative directives. Funding is managed through Council oversight and reserve allocations, enabling flexibility, accountability, and measurable outcomes for Barrie's economic development. The Employment Development CIP will be a five (5) year program and will be reviewed and updated on a five (5) year cycle.

The intent of the Employment Development CIP was to include all lands within the City of Barrie Municipal Boundary.

On December 9, 2025, the Province of Ontario passed the *Barrie–Oro-Medonte–Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025*, which provides for the annexation of portions of the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater to the City of Barrie to support long-term housing, employment, and infrastructure growth, expanding the City's municipal boundary. These lands were officially transferred to the City of Barrie on January 1, 2026.

Staff have made amendments to the project area maps included in all CIP documents, including the by-laws, to reflect the City of Barrie municipal boundary as of January 1, 2026.

To ensure all lands proposing employment uses can benefit from the CIP initiatives, staff have amended the City of Barrie Employment Community Improvement Project Area. The attached appendix is the Employment Land CIP that includes a Project Area with the new boundary of the City of Barrie and has been updated in the by-laws to be adopted by Council on March 4, 2026.

Appendix:

Appendix A - Draft Employment Lands Development CIP

Memo Author:

Lindsay Davidson, Manager of Business Development, Economic Development department

File #:

Not applicable.

Pending #:

Not applicable.